

Message Text

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73

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 AID-05 TRSE-00 L-03 DODE-00 PA-01

USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 INT-05 /051 W

----- 031701

R 281508Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5706

INFO AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PRETORIA 4418

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB SF MZ

SUBJ: REPORTED RENEGOTIATION OF SA-MOZAMBIQUE

MINE LABOR AGREEMENT

1. JOHANNESBURG SUNDAY TIMES OF SEPTEMBER 26 REPORTED NEGOTIATIONS NOW TAKING PLACE BETWEEN SOUTH AFRICA AND MOZAMBIKAN GOVERNMENTS ON REVISION OF MINE LABOR AGREEMENT AND OTHER ECONOMIC ISSUES. CITING TOP MINING SOURCES, REPORT STATES FOCUS OF TALKS IS PROVISION UNDER WHICH AT LEAST 60 PERCENT OF WAGES OF MOZAMBIKAN MINERS IN SA TURNED OVER TO GOM IN GOLD AT OFFICIAL PRICE OF \$42 PER OUNCE. TALKS ALSO ENCOMPASS ISSUES OF PORTS AND RAILWAYS ACCORDING TO ARTICLE.

2. ARTICLE GIVES NO INDICATION OF WHERE TALKS TAKING PLACE BUT MAPUTO WOULD BE MOST LIKELY VENUE.

3. COMMENT: DROP-OFF IN NUMBER OF MOZAMBIKAN MINERS FROM 118,000 TO 80,000 OR LESS TODAY IS APPARENTLY DUE TO PAPERWORK PROBLEMS ON MOZAMBIKAN SIDE. HOWEVER, THIS IS NOT ENTIRELY UNHAPPY DEVELOPMENT FOR SAG AND MINEOWNERS BECAUSE GOLD PAYMENT FORMULA

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IS COSTLY BURDEN WHEN GOLD PRICES LOW AND MARGINAL MINES BEING PHASED DOWN. MOREOVER, INCREASED

MINING JOBS FOR SA WORKERS CUSHIONS SLIGHTLY
GROWING DOMESTIC UNEMPLOYMENT AMONG BLACKS. IN
NEGOTIATING WITH MOZAMBIQUE, SAG WILL HAVE TO WEIGH
THESE FACTORS AGAINST DESIRABILITY OF CLOSER ECONOMIC
TIES GENERALLY.
BOWDLER

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